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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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Date: May 13, 2003 Signature: *Andy Brown*

Docket No.: HO-P02540US1  
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Scholler, Gordon S., et al.

Application No.: 09/896,429

Group Art Unit: 3739

Filed: June 29, 2001

Examiner: A. Farah

For: IMPROVED APPLANATION LENS AND  
METHOD FOR OPHTHALMIC SURGICAL  
APPLICATIONS

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 31, 2003**

#11B  
5-23

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as set forth below:

**In the Claims**

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 17 as follows:

1. An improved applanation lens for use in an interface between a patient's eye and a surgical laser system[ that does not discolor or lose light transmittance when subjected to gamma radiation], said improved applanation lens comprising:

*B1*  
a lens having an applanation surface configured to contact the eye, said lens being formed of high purity silicon dioxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) such that said lens does not discolor or lose light transmittance when subjected to gamma radiation.

*B2*  
5. The improved applanation lens of claim 1, wherein said applanation lens is formed of an  $\text{SiO}_2$  with a purity great enough to resist discoloration upon prolonged irradiation by high